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MR. J. M. B.

TAYLOR

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MAN. & MRS.

TAYLOR



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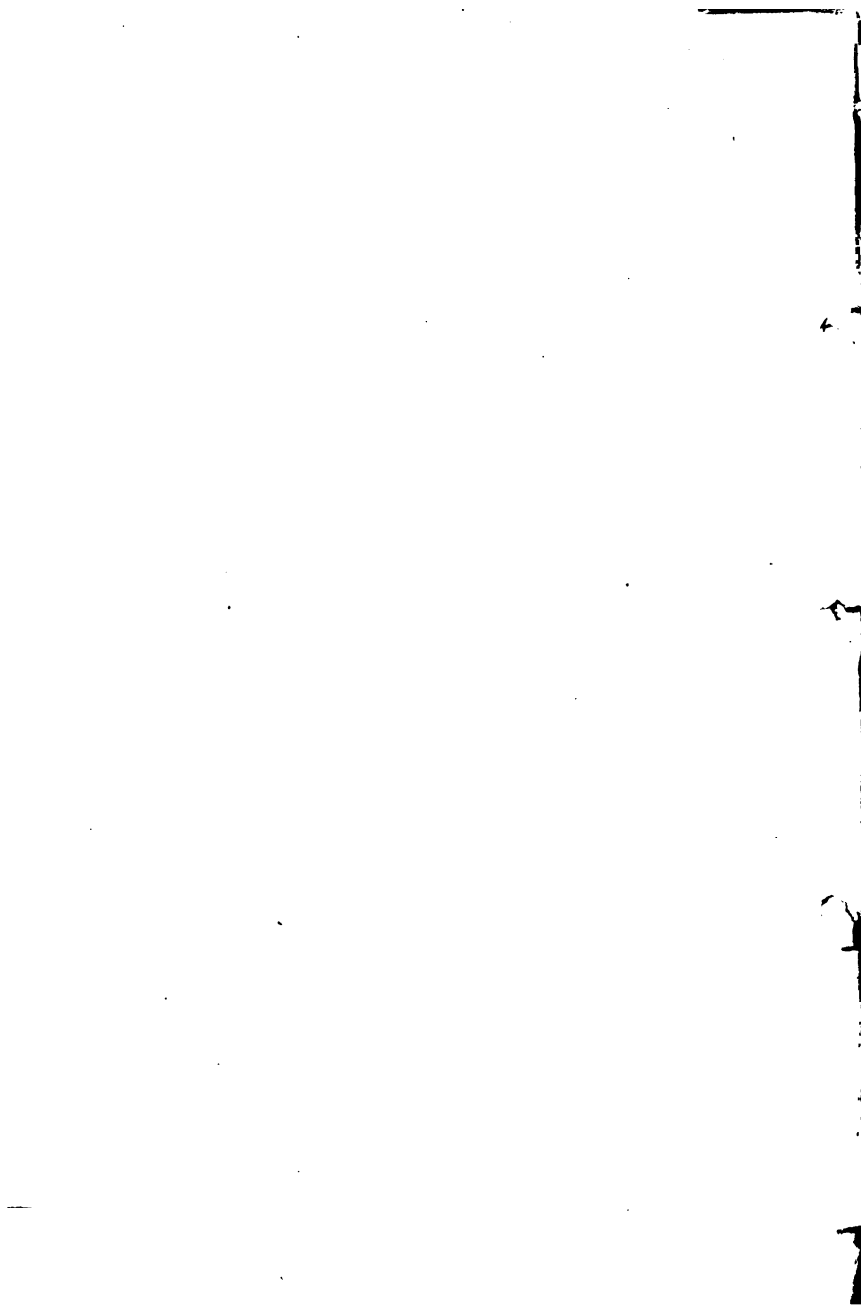
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*William Robert Taylor, defendant*  
THE

# MANCHESTER TRAGEDY.

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ILLUSTRATED EDITION.

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## A FULL REPORT

OF THE

TRIAL OF MR. AND MRS. TAYLOR

AT THE

LIVERPOOL ASSIZES,

AUGUST 20, 1862.

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LONDON: E. HARRISON; MANCHESTER: J. AND A. HEYWOOD;  
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

(1862)



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## THE MANCHESTER TRAGEDY.

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ONE of the most frightful events that has taken place, either in the city of Manchester or elsewhere, occurred on the morning of May 16, 1862. The facts in connection with this quadruple tragedy are as follows :—A little before nine o'clock on that morning a man named Taylor, who is the tenant of a shop in Britannia-buildings, Strangeways, stabbed and shot Mr. Evan Mellor, agent, of St James's Chambers, South King-street. The wound proved fatal, and the injured gentleman was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary, where he immediately expired. Shortly afterwards Bateman, of the detective force, took Taylor into custody, and conveyed him to the police-office. On searching him, a six-barrelled revolver pistol was found upon him, one barrel of which had evidently just been discharged. The knife with which the mortal wound was inflicted is a carving knife, 10in. long and 1½in. in width. Taylor gave up to the officers three keys, and with these Bateman and Bramall proceeded at once to the residence of Taylor, in Britannia-buildings, and on searching the house it was then discovered that Taylor had not only committed one murder but four.

On entering a back room over the kitchen, a sight presented itself as horrible to contemplate as it is dreadful to relate. Stretched alongside of each other, there lay the three children of the murderer, silent in death, each clothed in a white nightdress, and on the breast

of each a paper, on the back of which was the name and age of the child, and on the front the following inscription, written in a bold hand:—

“We are six, but one at Harptry lies; thither our bodies take. Mellor and Son are our cruel murderers, but God and our loving parents will avenge us. Love rules here; we are all going to our sister, to part no more.”

The names and ages of the three children, as we gathered from looking at the papers upon each, are as follows:—Mary Hannah Taylor, twelve years of age; Hannah [Maria] Taylor, eight years of age; William Robert Taylor, five years of age.

As soon as the children had been discovered Messrs. Clayton and Winterbottom, surgeons, were sent for, and were immediately in attendance. Medical skill was of no avail, and, what is still more remarkable, the children apparently bore no marks of violence, and a hasty inspection rendered it very difficult to say how they had been murdered. It is conjectured that death had been effected by suffocation.

The rumour in the neighbourhood with reference to the matter was to this effect:—It was said that a short time ago, through the bursting of a boiler in Taylor's house, one of his children was killed. This preyed upon his mind, and he made an application to Mr. Evan Mellor for £50 compensation. This Mr. Mellor refused to give, and the consequence is, that Taylor has ever since looked upon himself as a deeply injured man, if he has not been altogether in a state of temporary insanity.

Mr. Mellor was attacked by the male prisoner on the staircase leading to his room. He must have been rendered incapable of resistance very speedily; and when he fell the prisoner must have stabbed him several times. His coat is cut to pieces, and there are no fewer than eleven stab wounds in the body, several of which were sufficient to cause death. When deceased fell, a young man, attracted by the noise, was walking up the stairs. Seeing the bleeding body, he stooped to raise it, when the prisoner fired at deceased. The shot missed the body, however, and after passing through the right arm of the young man lodged in his right knee. The young man's name is John Hooley; he is twenty-two years of



**POSITION IN WHICH THE BODIES OF THE CHILDREN WERE  
DISCOVERED, BY SERGEANTS BATEMAN AND BRAMALL,  
MAY 16TH, 1862.**



age, and resides in 4, Rosalind-street, Salford. Hooley was taken to the infirmary, where the ball was extracted, and he is now going on well.

### FIRST EXAMINATION BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES.

On Mr. Ellison taking his seat, the clerk called William Robert Taylor and Martha Ann Taylor. The male prisoner is 5 feet 9 inches in height, and thirty-eight years of age. He had a black moustache and beard, appeared somewhat careworn, and was respectably dressed. The female prisoner is not the mother of the murdered children. She was of prepossessing appearance, wore a hat with a long black feather, a lace fall, black kid gloves on her hands, and was otherwise very well dressed. She is twenty-five years of age.

Sergeant Bateman, who seemed much affected, said: About nine o'clock this morning, a gentleman ran into the Town-hall, and told me that a gentleman had been murdered in South King-street. I immediately proceeded to the place indicated and found the male prisoner present in custody. He had this pistol (holding up a six-barrelled revolver) in his hand at the time. Five barrels are loaded. One has been recently fired. I took the prisoner to the Town-hall. He said, "Thank God, I have now finished my work." On searching him I found three keys. I asked him where he resided, and he said at No. 5 Britannia-buildings, Ducie-street, Strangeways. Pointing to the smallest key, he said, "That will unlock the bedroom over the back kitchen, and there is something there worth looking after." I went there in company with Sergeant Bramall, and on unlocking the room door, found the bodies of three children lying dead on the floor. Each body had a paper pinned to the dress. I then sent for Dr. Clayton and Dr. Winterbottom; but it was not easy to tell how the children had died. I then returned to the office, and charged the male prisoner with murdering Mr. Mellor by stabbing him with a knife. The female prisoner came to inquire for the male prisoner, and on her telling me he was her husband, I took her into custody. I asked her whether they were her children

who were lying dead, and she refused to make answer. I now ask for a remand.

Mr. Ellison asked the male prisoner whether he wished to ask the officer any question, and he replied "No; but I should like you to produce the papers found on the bodies of the children." Bateman said he had not got them. The female prisoner, in answer to a question from the bench, said she had no question to ask.

Both prisoners were then remanded.

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### THE INQUEST.

THE coroner's inquest was opened by Mr. Herford, the coroner for the city, shortly before one o'clock, at the coroner's court, Ridgefield. The court was numerously attended. The foreman of the jury was Mr. Wilson, of King-street. The prisoners were not present.

Henry Bateman, police sergeant of the city force, was the first witness. He said: A few minutes before nine this morning I was sent for to St. James's-chambers, South King-street, where deceased had an office, and found the prisoner, William Robert Taylor, in the custody of three gentlemen. One of the gentlemen told me that Taylor had shot a man that I then saw lying on the floor. I saw that the prisoner Taylor had this pistol (a six-barrelled revolver) in his right hand. He did not speak when that was said by the gentleman. I said, "You will have to go with me to the Town-hall." He said, "I will go." I took him to the Town-hall. He then said to me, "I live at No. 5, Britannia-buildings, Strangeways." At the Town-hall I searched him, and found in his pocket three door-keys, some percussion caps, and a flask of gunpowder. He said, "One key will unlock the yard door, a second the kitchen door, a third the bedroom door upstairs." This was in reference to his house in Strangeways. He also said if I would go there, and unlock that room door, I should find something. I went, in company with Sergeant Bramall, to the house, and unlocked the doors, entering the bedroom with the key he had pointed out to me. I unlocked the door and went into the bedroom, where I found the bodies of the three children. I saw them lying side by side, on the floor, close together. They appeared to

have been arranged in that way. They were dressed in white night-gowns, or shirts, and stockings, with black ribbons tied round their waists, and, I think, round the neck. The garments were quite clean. I did not examine whether there was any other clothing. They did not seem to have been long dead. The names of the children are Mary Hannah Taylor, twelve years of age, Hannah Maria, eight years, and William Robert, five years. I fetched Dr. Clayton. There were three papers, one pinned to the breast of each child. They are in the same handwriting. I returned to the Town-hall and said to the prisoner, "I have found three children lying on the floor of the back bedroom that are dead, are they your children?" He said, "They are." I then cautioned him, and said, "You are charged with murdering a man named Mellor, at his office in South King-street." I asked him, "Have you anything you wish to say?" He said "No." I then said, "You are now charged with murdering the three children found in your bedroom, have you anything you wish to say about that charge?" He said, "No." I did not see Mrs. Taylor (the prisoner's wife) until I returned from Strangeways, when I found her in custody at the Town-hall. She was in a separate room. I then said, "Are you Mr. Taylor's wife?" Her reply was, "I am." I said, "I have been down to your house in Strangeways, and found three children lying dead in a back bedroom, are they your children?" She made no reply. I then said, "You are charged with being in company with your husband at the murdering of Mr. Mellor, in South King-street." She made no reply. I have neglected to give a portion of evidence that should have occurred to me before. When I took Mr. Taylor to the office and was searching him, he said, "Thank God, my work is done." When I returned to the Town-hall, as I ought also to have related, the wife said, "There is a basket at Mr. Mellor's office containing two sponges, two hair brushes, and a comb, will you fetch it for me?"

The Coroner, on the conclusion of the evidence, asked how it was that the prisoner Taylor was not present.

Captain Palin, the chief constable, said the prisoner had been, in the usual way, taken before the magistrates, as the first court that was held, and he was now in gaol.

After some conversation Captain Palin undertook, in deference to



above, and found Mr. Mellor lying upon his back. No one was beside him. He was bleeding from the mouth, and I thought he was in a fit, and had fallen down-stairs. I have since learned that the man and woman were at that time up-stairs, I called to my porter, John Hooley, to bring some water, and he did so, and we raised Mr. Mellor up into a sitting posture. He was moaning, and was quite insensible. After we had got him into a sitting posture, Taylor came down-stairs. We had our arms around Mr. Mellor, and Taylor came and put a revolver right in Mr. Mellor's face and fired it. Hooley immediately cried out, "Mr. Joseph, I am shot," and he ran down-stairs. The prisoner remained there; and the woman came down-stairs also. I then ran into the street to get assistance, but there was no one about at the time. Finding no one about I went into the offices again, and, going upstairs, I met Taylor coming down, with the revolver in his hand. I said to him, "My God! what does this mean?" He replied, "He has murdered my children." Just then Mr. Mellor, jun., came from his office and ran across to the Town-hall for a police officer; and whilst he was absent, the prisoner was walking about the ground-floor with his wife, and the revolver in his hand. Taylor said to Hooley, who was standing at the door, "My man, you had better be off straight to the infirmary." The woman stood looking at Hooley, who was holding his wrist out.

In reply to a jurymen, the witness said this shot went through Mr. Mellor, and then struck Hooley. This, however, seems incorrect, as the surgeon said there was no shot wound on Mr. Mellor. The revolver was placed so close to Mr. Mellor that the fire singed the witness's face.

In reply to a jurymen, the witness said that Taylor did not offer the least violence to him.

The Foreman: Was there anything peculiar in the appearance of Taylor?

Witness: No. Yesterday he was there with his wife, and I have seen him frequently pass down South King-street.

The Coroner: Then, having seen both of them before, did you observe anything different in their appearance?

Witness: No; they were as collected and calm as any of us. I have seen them half a dozen times within the last month.

William Heath: I am house surgeon at the Manchester Royal

Infirmary. At half-past nine o'clock this morning the deceased Evan Mellor, was brought to the Royal Infirmity. When I saw him he was dead. I at once made a *post-mortem* examination. I found eleven distinct incised wounds in different parts of the body—namely, one on the right side of the chest, about two inches and a half in length, passing obliquely through the ensiform cartilage of the breast bone, penetrating the left ventricle of the heart, passing through the diaphragm and wounding the liver; a second wound on the left breast, about two inches in length, passing obliquely, dividing the cartilages of the sixth and seventh ribs, penetrating the left ventricle of the heart; a third wound was at the back of the chest two inches in length, on the left side, dividing the seventh rib and wounding the lung. About two inches below the last wound was a fourth about two and a half inches in length, not penetrating the cavity of the chest. A fifth wound was about an inch and a half in length in the right groin, passing obliquely upwards into the cavity of the abdomen. There were two more wounds on the left buttock, each about an inch and a half in length. There were also two wounds on the left forearm; one about two inches in length, in the fleshy part and front of the forearm, and the other close to and extending upwards from the wrist joint, about five inches in length, cutting off a portion of bone from the inner bone of the forearm. There were two wounds on the right hand—one on the forefinger, two and a half inches long; and the other on the thumb, about an inch in length. There was also a contused wound on the left eyebrow.

The Coroner: Supposing a bullet had passed through the body must you have discovered the fact?

Witness: Yea; there must have been an aperture, and I found none; therefore it must be a mistake on the part of Mr. Leatherbrow. The wounds on the front of the chest were the cause of death. They might have been inflicted by such a knife as is produced.

Sergeant Bramall, detective officer, said: This morning, a little after nine o'clock, I went with Sergeant Bateman to the place in South King-street. The prisoner was pointed out to us as the person who had shot the man, and, observing that he had a pistol in his hand, we rushed at him, and Bateman took the pistol from him, and we conducted him to the police-office. I returned and found that

Hooley had been taken to the Royal Infirmary. I did not at that time know that Mr. Mellor had been injured, but on going to the infirmary I saw him brought in there. I then went to Mr. Mellor's office, and in the anteroom I found the knife (already described) concealed behind a board in one corner of the room. The knife is marked with blood. This sheath (formed of a pamphlet of some thirty pages, bound round with india-rubber bands) was found in Taylor's pocket when he was searched by Bateman at the police-office. The wife was not apprehended with her husband. She went to the A division of police to inquire for her husband, and then came to the Detective-office for the same purpose. I was present when she came to the Detective-office, and, on learning who she was, I ordered her to be detained, as I understood she was implicated in the murder. She said nothing when I ordered her detention.

Mr. Henry Winterbottom, surgeon, Strangeways, said : I made a *post-mortem* examination of the eldest girl by the order of the coroner. So far as I have been able to ascertain, the organs are perfectly healthy, with the exception of very slight congestion of the brain and the duodenum. The stomach was rather more pallid than one would expect to find in a child in perfect health. In the stomach there were four ounces of fluid. I could not detect any poison from the odour, nor were there any appearances of poisoning. The contents of the stomach have not yet been analysed. There were no marks of external violence on the children, with the exception of a slight scratch on the bridge of the nose of the eldest girl.

The Coroner : Then, there being some reason to believe that the deaths have been caused by artificial means, what, in the absence of all appearance of disease, do you think would be the cause of death ?

Witness : Of course, it is only conjecture at present, but I should think the most likely cause would be narcotic poisoning. I saw no appearances of suffocation. I should suppose that the deaths had taken place from twenty-four to forty-eight hours before I saw them. The pupils of the eye were dilated and the eyes closed.

The Coroner said this was the whole of the evidence obtainable at present, and it would be for the jury to decide whether they could on that evidence say who were the murderers of Mr. Mellor. With

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regard to the children, it would be necessary to adjourn to take further evidence, and to have an analysis of the stomach. There was no doubt sufficient evidence to show that Taylor, at all events, was the cause of Mr. Mellor's death; and the jury would also have to consider whether Mrs. Taylor, who seemed to have had the revolver in her hand, was not also a party to the murder; if so, both were chargeable with wilful murder. As he had before told the jury, the state of mind of the prisoners would have nothing to do with their verdict; and with regard to that, there seemed to be nothing to show that Taylor was a man who was excited merely by some fancied injury.

The coroner's court was then cleared whilst the coroner and jury deliberated. On the re-admission of the public, the coroner announced that the jury would prefer an adjournment of the whole matter to Monday; but, meanwhile, a deputation from the jury would wait upon the mayor and corporation as to the settlement of the question whether the prisoners should not be produced at the adjourned inquest.

It was then arranged to adjourn the inquest to Monday, the same day as that fixed for the re examination of the prisoners before the magistrates.

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On Monday morning, at half-past nine o'clock, the inquest was resumed. The prisoners were not in attendance.

Mr. Henry Winterbottom, surgeon, Strangeways, said: I was present on Saturday when the *post mortem* examination was made of the two younger children of Taylor. There were no appearances of natural disease; everything was in a healthy state, resembling the appearances of the eldest child. There was a slight bruise on the left eye of the younger girl, and a very slight bruise on the left leg of the same girl. As far as I know, no appearances have been found indicating poison, as the result of the chemical analysis. It is possible that narcotic poison might be administered without leaving any traces. There are no appearances on any of the children to negative the supposition that narcotic poison may have been administered. I cannot suggest anything to the jury to enable them to arrive at a decision as to how the children came to their death. The children must have had fluid food very shortly before death. I sealed up the

stomach and contents of the eldest child in one vessel, and the howels in another. They were delivered to Mr. Hudson, the chemist, on Saturday.

Mr. Fearnside Hudson said : I am an analytical and consulting chemist in this city. I received six vessels containing the contents of the stomachs of the three children. I have found no traces whatever of poison in either of the vessels. They do not contain any of the ordinary poisons we usually find. I have examined for arsenic, lead, copper, mercury, zinc, prussic acid, oxalic acid, and other acids, as well as morphia, strychnine, and all narcotic poisons. There are narcotic poisons which might cause death and yet not be discovered.

Mr. Robert Haywood M'Keand, surgeon to the Manchester police, said : I have made a *post-mortem* examination of the second and third child. On the girl I found no external marks of violence, with the exception of a slight black eye and a mark on the leg. On an internal inspection of the body I found nothing to lead me to suppose that the child had come to its death in any unnatural way ; all the organs were perfectly healthy ; but there was a pallid condition of the mucous membrane of the stomach rather more than usual. I also made an examination of the little boy. There were no external marks of violence, and the child bore a healthy appearance. Internally I found no cause whatever which would produce death. The stomach was a little more pallid than usual.

The Coroner : Do you agree that there are certain poisons which might be administered and cause death, in the case of children especially, and yet leave no traces on chemical analysis.

The Witness : I do not wish to offer any opinion, because what I might say would be only speculative.

The Coroner : Are there not poisons which might produce death and yet never be discovered by chemical analysis ?

The Witness : I should think the cases would be rare.

A Juror : How long had the children been dead ?

Witness : About three full days.

A Juror : There is no possibility of their having been starved ?

Witness : No ; that is quite clear.

A Juror : You cannot give any reason why they came to their death ?

Witness : None at all.

The Coroner : Do you agree with the other medical men as to the appearances that would be produced by charcoal or chloroform ?

Witness : I do not concur with any other medical men. I am not aware what the other medical witnesses have said.

The Coroner : Supposing death to have taken place through chloroform what appearances would be produced ?

Witness : I never inspected any body which had died from chloroform. With regard to charcoal, I should expect to find a certain condition of the brain, showing that the children had died from suffocation.

Sergeant Bateman repeated his evidence, for the satisfaction of the jury, as to the statements of the female prisoner when apprehended.

The Coroner then summed up. If the prisoner (Taylor) was guilty, his wife was equally guilty of this foul murder ; for if two persons were found assisting or abetting each other in a crime committed by one or both, both were equally guilty ; and in this case, if the jury found that they were assisting each other, their proper verdict would be wilful murder against both. The jury were not called upon to say what particular death the children met with, but whether they came to a natural or unnatural death.

The jury then retired, and returned after an absence of three-quarters of an hour, when the foreman said : " We find that Evan Mellor was wilfully murdered by William Robert Taylor, and that his wife Martha Ann Taylor was accessory to it ; and we are satisfied that the three children, Mary Hannah Taylor, Hannah Maria Taylor, and William Robert Taylor, did not die from natural causes ; but we have no positive proof how or by whom their deaths were caused."

The Coroner : You find, then, with regard to the children, that they were murdered by some persons unknown ?

The Foreman : Yes.

The proceedings before the coroner were then brought to a close.

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## ADJOURNED EXAMINATION BEFORE THE MAGISTRATES.

On the 19th May the prisoners, William Robert Taylor and Martha Ann Taylor, were again brought up at the Manchester police-court, on the charge of murder.

For more than two hours prior to the opening of the doors all the approaches were thronged with a crowd of people eager to gain admittance to the court. The galleries and back of the dock were filled by ladies and gentlemen, the jury-box by witnesses, and the centre table, through the courtesy of Mr. Maybury, was reserved for reporters. The passages were all occupied by gentlemen, and every available spot was filled. A row of seats immediately in front of the witness-box was occupied by relatives of the deceased (Mr. Mellor); Mr. W. G. Mellor, junior, however, was not among them.

The prisoners were called to the dock at half-past ten. The male prisoner stood on the left, facing the bench, his wife on the right side. They both appeared cool and collected. The male prisoner is of a brownish complexion; and on a close examination of his face, his restless eye, and compressed lips gave indications of considerable emotion, which he appeared to be struggling to repress. The female prisoner was pale, but the study of her face gave less indication of feeling than was traceable in her husband's. Her heart seemed to beat violently for a moment. The female prisoner wore a black velvet hat with feather, and a lace fall, a bead collar, brown mantle, and black kid gloves. After standing for a moment or two side by side, the male prisoner spoke to his wife in a whisper, and she then sat down on a seat in the dock. Once or twice in the course of the examination he spoke to her, holding at the time a paper in his hand, and he appeared as though he was consulting her upon its contents.

Mr. Ellison said to the male prisoner: Prisoner, have you any professional assistance, or do you wish to have any? He replied; No; I can manage my own business. Mrs. Taylor also made a negative reply to the same question. The first witness was—

Mr. W. G. Mellor, who trembled violently, and kept his face averted from the prisoners. He said: I am the son of the deceased. I was his clerk. His firm was Evan Mellor and Son. The business

was that of estate agents. Only one son was a partner—my elder brother—John Mellor. I went to the office on Friday morning, I believe, about a quarter to nine. I had been in about two minutes when the two prisoners came there. I was the only person there. Taylor asked me if Mr. Mellor had come; I said, "No; but I did not expect that he would be long." Taylor said he had to go by a train. He then sat down in the ante-room with his wife. She sat down also. I remained in the inner office. My father came in in about ten minutes. Before my father came I had heard some one say, "Mr. Mellor," and something else which I did not catch. I heard my father come into the outer office. The male prisoner was sitting with his back to the window, and opposite the staircase door; his wife was sitting with her back to the wall, and facing the inner office. Mr. Mellor was closing the door behind him when he came in. I saw him in the act of coming in. My father said, "Good morning, Mr. Taylor." At the next moment I heard him say, in a tone of alarm, "Oh, Mr. Taylor!" I was still looking on. My eyes were not removed when that exclamation was uttered. At the time my father spoke, I saw Taylor holding my father as though he were throttling him. It was all in an instant. I then got off my seat and rushed to the door. When I reached it, the prisoner had my father on the landing. His wife was close to the door, with a revolver in her hand. She was in the lobby. I did not see her rise from her seat. She was not far from the door, and facing me, with a revolver in her hand. She held the pistol out in her hand and pointed it towards me. The door leading into the lobby was only partly open, and when I pushed it open I saw her opposite to me. [The female prisoner smiled on this evidence being given.] She could see what was going on between my father and the prisoner. My father was against the next door on the same landing; the male prisoner was close to and facing my father. I could see the male prisoner's hand working to and fro. I then banged the door to and ran into the inner office. The door did not close. I threw up the window, and then I heard the report of a firearm; the sound came from the staircase. I threw up the window because I thought the female prisoner was going to follow me, and I had intended to have got through. On hearing the shot I ran back to the landing. No one was on the first landing; but on the second I found my father lying there. There was a gentleman at his head.



I then saw the male prisoner above me on the stairs, so that I must have passed him. The staircase is quite light. The male prisoner had the revolver in his hand; he was evidently looking over the landing I was on. I fancied he was looking for me, so I hid myself behind the gentleman. I did not see the female prisoner at that time. The male prisoner then went up-stairs, and I rushed down-stairs, and went to the police-office. I returned to the offices immediately, and then saw the female prisoner walking up and down the ground floor. She seemed to be coming out of the building. I went up to where I left my father, and assisted to carry my father down. He appeared to be dead then. I am not aware of any misunderstanding existing between the male prisoner and my father; but there had been a difference. There had been an explosion in the prisoner's house. We are agents for the property which the prisoners occupied. The explosion took place about six months ago, and one of the male prisoner's children was killed. The prisoner made complaints of the explosion, and stated that the place wanted a thorough repairing, and he claimed compensation for the loss of the child. The witness went on to state that the goods of the prisoner had been distrained for rent. He was cross-examined by the prisoner with the view, apparently, of showing that Mr. Mellor had dealt hardly in the matter.

While giving his evidence the witness was at times affected to tears. He was accommodated with a seat in the witness-box. The questions put by the male prisoner were, together with the comments made upon the answers, in a tone of severe irony.

The female prisoner, in answer to the magistrate, signified that she had no question to ask the witness.

[The male prisoner sat down in the dock during the evidence of the next witness. He had stood listening intently to Mr. Mellor, jun.]

Mr. Joseph Peacock Leatherbrow, wine merchant, 1, St. James's Chambers, said: My office is on the ground floor, below Mr. Mellor's. On Friday morning I came to the office about nine o'clock. I was standing at the door of my office, and heard some one falling down-stairs above. I ran up immediately, and found Mr. Evan Mellor lying upon his back, at the bottom of the second flight of stairs from the ground. He was bleeding from the mouth apparently. No one

was near him at the time. I called to our cellarman, John Hooley, and he came up to where Mr. Mellor was lying, and we raised him to a sitting position. At that moment some one came down-stairs from the higher offices, and presented a revolver at the head of the deceased. I did not see the person who held the pistol; we were both bending over him at the time, so I did not notice who presented it. The pistol exploded, being not more than two feet or three feet from the deceased's head, and we then allowed Mr. Mellor to fall back on to the floor. I looked round, and saw the male prisoner standing close to the body of deceased, and he had a revolver in his right hand. I said to the prisoner, "My God, what does this mean?" He replied, "Oh, he has murdered my children!" My porter, as soon as the pistol was fired, jumped up, and shouted out that he was shot through the arm, and ran down-stairs. After speaking to the prisoner, I ran down-stairs for assistance. The last witness passed me on the stairs, on his way to the Town-hall. I found Hooley at the door of my office, where he had fainted; and I saw blood about his arm. I went into my office and got Hooley some water, and when I came out the male prisoner was walking about the ground floor. The female prisoner was looking at Hooley. The male prisoner went to Hooley, and said, "Young man, you had better go straight to the infirmary," or words to that effect. At that time the male prisoner had the revolver in his hand. An officer arrived from the Town-hall, and the male prisoner was removed. Where his wife went to I don't know. The body of Mr. Mellor was then brought down-stairs. Both the prisoners were very composed.

When the reading of the deposition commenced the male prisoner stood up.

Both prisoners declined to ask the witness any question.

The witness then added: I forget to say that during the last week I have seen the prisoner and his wife going past my office into the building four or five times within a week.

The prisoner: That is a very important remark. Thank you, sir. Gentlemen, you see, they saw us call four or five times in the week; and it is not likely we were seen by them every time we went.

Mr. H. F. Pankhurst, auctioneer, gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. William Heath, house surgeon at the infirmary, described the wounds which had been inflicted on Mr. Mellor. There were eleven

staps on different parts of the body. About the same time as the body of Mr. Evan Mellor was brought in, a man named John Hooley was also brought to the infirmary. He was suffering from gunshot wounds in the right forearm and the right knee.

The male prisoner asked whether the young man was seriously injured, whether there was any probability of his speedy recovery and whether anything serious would result?

The witness replied that the young man's life was not seriously endangered, and he hoped he would recover entirely.

The prisoner appeared to be relieved on hearing that his life was not seriously imperilled.

Sergeant Thomas Bramall deposed that he apprehended the male prisoner, and also that he found in Mr. Mellor's office a bloody knife.

Mr. Thomas G. Jones, general salesman, Deansgate : On Tuesday afternoon last the male prisoner came to our shop to purchase a revolver. I showed him several out of the window. He wished one that would act correctly. He tried several of the revolvers, and chose one that was strongest at the hammers. He chose one the price of which was agreed to be a sovereign. He said he had no money, but that he had a silver Geneva watch, which he had redeemed out of pledge that morning, that he had no use for it, it being out of order, and he would exchange it for the pistol. I consented, and gave him the revolver and the guard of the watch back. The revolver produced is the one I sold. I did not ask him what he wanted the revolver for. The revolver was not loaded when I sold it him, but I sold him a bullet-mould with it.

Sergeant Bateman said he accompanied Bramall to apprehend William Taylor, and found upon him the pistol. He also described the finding of the prisoner's dead children at the house in Strange-ways. He afterwards told the male prisoner what he had found there, and asked him if they were his children, and he said they were. He told him he was charged with the murder of Mellor and the children. He then took the female prisoner into another room and told her she was charged with being an accomplice in the murder of Mellor. He then told her she was further charged with the murder of the three children. She made no reply, but said she had left a basket at Mr. Mellor's office, containing sponges and a hair brush,—and asked

if he would be kind enough to fetch it. He went and found the basket produced, which she identified as her own.

By the prisoner: Some of the injuries done to the house appeared to result from the doors being forced open.

Sergeant Hodson said the female prisoner told him that she came to give herself up. She said, "It's me that committed the murder, and not the man they have taken." This was said on the way from the A police station to the Detective-office.

Mr. Maybury, chief superintendent of police, said he did not propose to go into the case of murdering the children till there had been time for further inquiry.

Mr. John Neale, builder, said he gave a man leave to grind a knife on the previous Thursday, but it was not the prisoner.

Mr. Ellison said the prisoners would be remanded till Monday.

The male prisoner said he wished to have the assistance of his wife before the day to which he was remanded, believing that her memory would assist his own as to what had taken place before the court.

Mr. Ellison said they would consider the application. The prisoners were then removed.

On the 30th May Taylor and his wife were brought up again at the Manchester City Police court, charged with the murder of Mr. Mellor and Taylor's three children. Mr. Holker, barrister, appeared as prosecutor.

Mr. William Evans, of Exeter, deposed that the inscriptions found on the breasts of the three children were in the handwriting of Taylor.

Other witnesses deposed to seeing the children quite well a day or two before they were found dead.

Several medical gentlemen who had taken part in the *post-mortem* examination of the bodies of the children stated that they had failed to discover any symptoms of poison.

Dr. Alfred Swayne Taylor was examined at length. He had not been able to find any traces of poison in the bodies. He believed that the children had died from the inhalation of chloroform as a vapour, or been suffocated.

The prisoners were then committed on the charge of murdering Mr. Mellor, and the prosecution was to communicate with the authorities at the Home-office as to the prosecution of the prisoners in the case of the children.

The prisoners were then removed.

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### FURTHER DISCOVERIES BY THE POLICE.

AFTER the examination the police hourly made discoveries touching the subordinate and collateral facts relating to this horrible affair. It appears that about the 20th of July Taylor applied, in answer to an advertisement in the Manchester papers, for a situation as manager of two provision shops or stores. That application—a written one—was couched in language and terms which struck the gentleman to whom it was addressed as most extraordinary. The principal reason of the prisoner, as therein alleged, for applying for the situation alluded to was the “slaughter” of his child by the boiler explosion on the 19th January last. No sooner had Taylor’s application been read than the extraordinary statements made therein induced the gentleman to ask a friend if he knew him, and, if so, what manner of man he was, as the letter bore evident traces of the writer’s labouring under a mania of some kind, to say the least. Afterwards an interview seems to have taken place between the advertiser and Taylor; and almost immediately after that interview the former happened to meet in the street the latter and his wife, when Taylor, the moment he saw the advertiser, spoke to his wife, and then assumed a proud, haughty, defiant strut, as if he didn’t care one jot about Mr. D—— and his situation. Mr. D—— smiled and passed, and then turned to look upon the prisoner aye the fop. Afterwards Mr. D—— spoke of this in pity.

The police discovered that on the Wednesday or Thursday preceding the murder Taylor disposed of his children’s clothing; also that his wife had some connection with the transaction.

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The remains of Mr. Mellor were interred at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, near Manchester. The funeral was of a very private nature; never-

theless, there was a numerous body of spectators present. Exactly two years before—the day of the funeral being the second anniversary—the late Mr. Mellor's wife died.

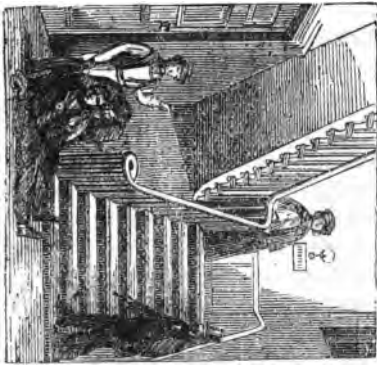
Taylor's three little children were interred at Harpurhey Cemetery, by public subscription. It is said that nearly £60 were dropped into a box for the receipt of donations. Many thousands of spectators were present, and the children were laid by the side of their sister's grave.

### THE SCENES OF THE MURDERS.

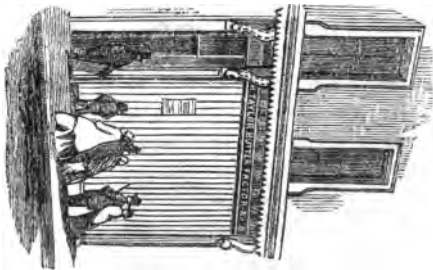
THE dwelling occupied by the prisoners in Britannia-buildings, Great Ducie-street, is one of a number of very fine houses (with shop fronts), the rent of which is £50 a year. Fronting the street there is a lofty and spacious shop, which has been closed for some time, but was at first used by Taylor for the sale of general provisions. The house is four storeys in height, and contains ten rooms, besides the shop and cellars. All the rooms are lofty, and have been fitted up with marble chimney-pieces, and papered and ornamented in a superior style. The house is nevertheless in a most desolate condition. It does not contain a single article of furniture of any kind—no table, chair, or stool; no bedding, not even straw; and the cupboards were found completely bare, there not being a particle of any description of food. The house also bears traces of gross mis-treatment. The marble chimney-pieces were found defaced, the corners and edges having been chipped with some blunt instrument. The panels and jambs of the doors had been cut, and judging from appearances, probably with the very knife that Mr. Mellor was murdered with. The wainscoating of some of the rooms had been similarly damaged. In the shop there were no articles of furniture or fixtures, either in the way of shelves, counters, or boxes. The baluster rail was chipped and hacked all the way from the ground floor to the top of the house. The front room immediately over the shop had been papered with a white satin-coloured paper, but was smeared in every part with soot and water, and the door of this room was worse cut than any other, some of the panels having been cut completely through. When the detectives—Bateman and Bramall—entered the house, they were pre-

pared to find something of a dreadful nature, but when they came to the room where the three little dead children lay as though placidly sleeping side by side, they were completely overcome and burst into tears. Each child had been washed and dressed, and lay the very picture of innocence and beauty, but in the sleep of death. The children had white night dresses on them; round the waist of each was a black sash, and a bit of black ribbon was tied round the wrists and neck. The girls' hair, dark brown, curled naturally, but had been combed with unusual care. The hair of the little boy was lighter than that of his sisters, and it had been combed after death into tufts on the centre of the head. The bodies lay on a bit of carpeting, the only fragment in the house. The room in which the children were found is on the left-hand landing, a few steps below the first floor. The windows of the house have very large panes of glass, but not one of these had been broken. The staircase is lighted by a stained-glass skylight.

The offices where Mr. Mellor was murdered are entered from South King-street. His office is on the second floor, and on the same floor are two rooms occupied by Mr. Frederick Andrew, solicitor. The stairs leading to the offices are wide; and there are four sets of steps numbering twenty-eight in all, and four small landings; of which the uppermost is the landing to Mr. Mellor's office on the second floor. On this landing there are only one or two drops of blood. This is the place where Mr. Mellor was first struck. Drops of blood were found upon the six steps leading to the next landing below, and there Mr. Mellor appears to have stumbled against the baluster rail, his blood trickling down the rail, and dripping on to the ground floor. Down eight more steps he stumbled, and then on the first floor landing, at the head of the next flight of stairs, he appears to have fallen, the spot being marked by a stain of blood on the floor. Mr. Mellor struggled with his assailant, endeavouring with his hands to ward off the stabs, and his hands consequently were much cut. Mr. Mellor was lying bleeding where he fell for the last time, when Mr. Leatherbrow and his porter Hooley found the body, and were raising it up just as the prisoners came down the stairs. The male prisoner presented his revolver at the head of Mr. Mellor, sen., and fired; the shot missed the deceased, and piercing the right hand of Hooley, lodged in his right knee. When the prisoners were safely locked up...



SCENE OF THE MURDER.



EXTERIOR OF TAYLOR'S HOUSE.





they both expressed the greatest concern for the safety of the porter Hooley. The male prisoner after his apprehension said he much regretted that he had not been able to kill Mr. Mellor's two sons.

### CURIOUS REVELATIONS.

THE police who had the getting up of the case against the assassin and murderer Taylor and his wife, by the assistance of sundry books and papers which were placed in their hands, made some curious discoveries relative to the male prisoner's antecedents; but of the doings of the female prisoner prior to her residence at Manchester—except, perhaps, that they discovered what was her maiden name and the name of the place which was once her home—they have learnt little.

By the papers and books alluded to, it appears that the male prisoner—who is described in the charge-sheet of the police as Robert William Taylor, 38 years of age, 5 feet 9½ inches high, having grey eyes, black hair, dark or sallow complexion, bushy whiskers and beard, and of a proportionate build—in April, 1861, was a dealer and retailer of spirits and ale and porter at the little town of Bideford, in North Devon. He remained there till May, but whether or not he remained there till June does not appear. "Loftus's Spirit Book"—a sort of stock book used by innkeepers and dealers in spirits for entering the spirits they receive—contains no entry but one made by the excise, which is as follows:—"1861, April 26 m. p. 10, inspected, —G. D." An account-book in which the prisoner, while at Bideford, kept a sort of ledger account with those with whom he traded, contains numerous entries of beer that he has received and paid for, and a good deal that he appears to have received—if his own book is to be believed—which he has not paid for. Among other brewery firms with which he dealt was that of Messrs. Norman and Woodcock, City Brewery, Exeter. The entry under their name bears date March 4, 1861. The belief is that Taylor commenced business at Bideford about the end of February or the beginning of March last year, and he appears to have traded under the name of William Taylor. Prior to his being a resident of Bideford, however, it appears by some other books that

he travelled on commission for some Mr. P. M. Hadley, a spirit merchant. His district seems to have embraced North and South Devon, Dorset, Somerset, &c. How long he was engaged in this capacity does not appear, but by the entries in his list book it is thought about twelve months. He also simultaneously appears to have represented some other firm with that of Mr. Hadley. In May, 1860, he appears to have received orders for various quantities of spirits from Mr. Densham, Mr. Strong, and Mr. Salter, all of Exeter. As well as Exeter, he visited Taunton, Bath, Sherbourne, Melbourne, Lyme Regis, Yeovil, &c. While travelling for Mr. Hadley he called himself William Taylor. But it was hardly likely that he would assume any other in Bideford; for before settling there he used to visit in his travelling capacity, when as we have said he was known as William Taylor. The next place at which the police hear of him is Manchester, where, on the 14th August last, he took a shop in Chester-road, which he said he wanted to occupy as a grocer. He had it in possession about a month, but never occupied or opened it for business. Leaving there, he took the shop in Strangeways, and there he was twice distrained on by his victim, Mellor, for rent—soon after Christmas last, and then again shortly before the murder for the March quarter's rent. The second time a clean sweep was made by the bailiffs of every possible thing—even, say the neighbours, the clothes of Taylor, his wife, and children, which were being washed, and others that were drying on the line. Nay, the people next door assert that the bailiffs even took a comb out of the hand of the eldest girl while she was dressing. Thus far of the male prisoner's doings.

With regard to his alleged wife, the information is but scanty. She is described in the charge sheet as Martha Ann Taylor, twenty-five years old, 5 feet 5 inches high, and having light brown hair, blue eyes, a fresh complexion, and high cheek bones. In a boy's school account book, among other matters and entries, are all the names of Taylor, the wife, and his four children, described as all of Manchester, but also, in the same handwriting as these names, and in the same handwriting too as that describing the ages and names of the murdered children on the back of the label pinned to the shroud of each, there is the following singular entry, both in ink and pencil :—  
 “Miss Martha Ann Giles, Hatherleigh Farm, near Wincanton, Somerset.” Now, it is believed that this was the female prisoner's maiden

name; at any rate it is clear that it was that of the sister of Josh Giles, the boy to whom the book belonged. "Josh Giles, 1856," is printed on the first page of the book in large Roman capitals. It is a first account book. At present the surmise is that while the male prisoner was a traveller he became acquainted with this Martha Ann Giles, and that she is the woman calling herself Martha Ann Taylor. Neither she nor Taylor seems to care for any friends knowing their position, but there may be good reason for this. Indeed, is she his wife? And if she be, was there no romantic wedding at, or no elopement from, Hatherleigh Farm, near Wincanton, Somerset? There is some mystery somewhere, but at present the solution has not been found, though this account may doubtless lead to some explanation or discovery. At any rate it is clear that both prisoners have been respectable members of society once.

Taylor—for a Geneva watch, as it seems—obtained the revolver on the Tuesday in Manchester. He called at Mr. Mellor's office on the Thursday, the day before the fatal morning. He then had some conversation with his victim, and seemed friendly enough. It is believed that he then went to do the deed but that his heart misgave him, and then that he went again on Friday at the request of his wife, and she with him, to see that he did not play the coward a second time. And doubtless she would have shot Mellor had he not killed him, for it will be remembered she had the pistol in the first instance. Hatherleigh Farm is not far from Frome; how far is it from Road?

## THE TRIAL.

THE trial took place at Liverpool, on Thursday, August 21st. At an early hour the court was densely crowded, and the most absorbing interest was manifested in the case.

Mr. Monk, Q.C., with whom were Mr. Fowler and Mr. Holkar, was engaged for the prosecution; and Mr. Overend, Q.C., for the female; and Mr. Pope, for the male prisoner.

Both prisoners pleaded not guilty—the male prisoner pleading “Not guilty; not a shadow of guilt.”

In opening the case for the prosecution, Mr. Monk said he should not follow the example sometimes set of enlarging in very solemn tones and in an emphatic manner upon the nature of the crime charged against the prisoners, because he believed such appeals had rather the effect of agitating the nerves than invigorating the judgment and strengthening the perceptions of the jury. One thing, however, he wished to urge, and if he did not speak as eloquently and powerfully as his learned friends, he wished to do so no less emphatically and sincerely—viz., that every member of the jury would discard from his mind absolutely and entirely everything which he had heard and seen in the papers respecting the case. Their duty was to judge of the case by the evidence, and that alone. The facts of the case were these: Mr. Evan Mellor, the deceased, was in partnership with one of his sons as an estate agent in Manchester, and in an extensive and respectable way of business. Among other persons, the deceased was the agent for Mr. Dunn, a very near relative of one of the members for Lancashire. About the end of October, 1861, the male prisoner applied to take, and ultimately did take, from the deceased a house and shop, in Britannia-buildings, Strangeways, one of the suburbs of Manchester. He entered into possession, and remained in possession until the unfortunate occurrence into which they were then inquiring. On the 16th May, William Mellor, a younger son of the deceased, who was also employed in the office of his father, arrived at their place of business in Lower King-street about nine o'clock, a little before his father. He had scarcely arrived when Taylor came in, accompanied by his wife. Taylor inquired for Mr. Mellor, and was told

that he had not yet arrived, but was expected in half an hour. Now, the premises occupied by the Mellors were situated upon the second floor, and the lower rooms were occupied, amongst other tenants, by a Mr. Leatherbrow. Mellor's office consisted of a general and private office, and an ante-room partitioned from the general office. At the time the Taylors entered no one was in the office but young William Mellor; and having learned that Mr. Mellor, senior, was not in, the prisoners took seats in such positions that the male prisoner could command a view of the entrance to the premises, and the female of the private and general offices, which were approached by the ante-room. A few minutes elapsed, when young Mellor heard his father's voice, and saw him enter and close the door of the general office. He heard him say, "Good morning, Mr. Taylor," and this was followed almost immediately by the exclamation, "Oh, Mr. Taylor!" upon which young Mellor turned and saw his father in the grasp of the male prisoner, who at that time seemed to have clenched in his hand something which William Mellor could not see, but with which the prisoner appeared to be striking at his father's breast. With a natural impulse William Mellor proceeded towards his father, but the moment he did so the female prisoner presented a revolver, and young Mellor then rushed back again into the office where he was before, and attempted to fasten the door. Nobody, however, followed him. Throwing up a window he gave an alarm, and in a short time, hearing a report of fire-arms on the staircase, he again came out of the office, and found his father lying upon the landing of the first floor [the attack had taken place on the second floor] in a state of insensibility. In the meantime it appeared that Mr. Leatherbrow, from his office below, had heard the noise of some person falling, and came out to see what was the matter. Observing Mr. Mellor lying upon the landing, he called to Hooley, one of his servants, who came and raised the deceased's head. While Hooley was in this attitude, with his wrist near Mr. Mellor's head, the male prisoner was observed to come from behind and fire a revolver, which wounded Hooley both in the wrist and in the knee. Hooley then let Mellor fall down, and he himself staggered away propping himself against the wall. As he was thus proceeding it would be shown by the evidence that both the prisoners very composedly and coolly recom-

mended him to go to the infirmary and seek medical assistance. Now, about this time a person named Pankhurst, who was passing, entered the building, and found Hookey and Leatherbrow, and the male prisoner, standing a step or two above them on the stairs. About the same moment, or immediately afterwards, William Mellor rushed down the stairs, and was proceeding to his father, when a pistol was levelled at him by the prisoner. Pankhurst put up his hand and said, "Good God, what would you do?" and young Mellor ran behind some of the persons present. The prisoner said, "He has ruined me and my children." Pankhurst put his hand to Mellor after the shot, and found that the pulse, which was throbbing before, had ceased. Mellor was removed at once in a coach to the infirmary, and it then appeared that he had received no fewer than eleven stabs in different parts of the body, and that there was also a wound which might have been received by falling, making twelve in all. Of the eleven stabs, one had penetrated the heart, another had taken effect about the chest, and the others were of such a kind as to be almost immediately fatal. When the police arrived the female prisoner was found walking about on the ground floor, and the male prisoner still held the revolver in his hands. About the time of his arrest he exclaimed, of his own accord, "Thank God, my work's done!" and on another occasion he exclaimed that Mr. Mellor had murdered his children. These incidents, however, would be more amply detailed by the witnesses. Upon the prisoner was also found a bullet and mould, a powder flask, some percussion caps, and a sheath of paper such as is frequently used for knives, and behind a sideboard on the landing where the attack upon Mr. Mellor had taken place was found a knife which seemed intended to fit that sheath. The knife was wet and bloody. Mr. Monk said he should further prove that the woman who was employed to clean the premises was there some half hour previously, and that no knife was there then. It would also be proved that on the previous day the prisoner purchased a revolver and bullet-mould—the same as those found upon him—from a Mr. Jones. The revolver was an old-fashioned one of six chambers, in which the whole of the barrels, and not merely the chamber, revolved. One of the barrels was found to be discharged and the other five were loaded. When taken to the police-office the prisoner took from some part of his person three

kays, explained what doors they belonged to, and said, "That opens such and such a bedroom, and if you will go there you will find something." The officers, when they got to the house, found it in a state of great disorder, the walls, and doors, and chimney-pieces having been much injured and disfigured. A stone slab had been removed from one of the chimney-pieces, and laid upon the bedroom floor, and upon that slab were placed the heads of three children who had ceased to live. How long, or by what means, those children had ceased to live was no part of the present inquiry, and he (the learned counsel) should have abstained from noticing the children at all, were it not for certain expressions and conduct of the prisoners. The children were washed and "laid out," each being dressed in a man's clean shirt, and round the neck, waist, and wrist of each being tied a piece of black ribbon. Upon the breast of each child was pinned a piece of paper with the following inscription:—We are six, but one at Harptry lies: thither our bodies take. Mellor and Son are our cruel murderers, but God and our loving parents will avenge us. Love rules here: we are all going to our sister to part no more." That writing was in the hand of the male prisoner. On the other side of the paper was written the name of each child—"Mary Hannah Taylor; 12 years of age: Hannah Maria Taylor, 8 years of age; Wm. Robert Taylor, 5 years of age." Upon the body of the younger child was another piece of paper, upon which was written—"Mellor our sister slew through gross neglect." After alluding to some minor points in connection with Taylor selling some clothes belonging to his children and his wife, Mr. Monk came to consider the question of motive. The prisoners were evidently intensely imbued with a desire to revenge the wrongs and injuries which they believed they had sustained at Mr. Mellor's hands. They were unprepared at Christmas, 1861, to pay the rent which was due for the premises in Britannia-buildings, and they were threatened with a distress. But still the rent was not paid, nor was it paid until after an occurrence of a very painful kind, which he (the learned counsel) would now detail. On the Sunday before the 24th January, 1862, an explosion of steam took place upon the premises, which caused the death of one of Taylor's children. Before the explosion, Taylor had complained to Mr. Mellor of the leakage in the pipes, and Mellor gave instructions for the usual



repairs; but whether the pipes were repaired or not, some further leakage appeared to have taken place, which continued till the explosion. The explosion was attributable to the fact that some pipes which communicated with the cistern had been stopped. The prisoner attributed the explosion to the negligence of Mr. Mellor, though the latter said it was Taylor's own fault, and he therefore refused to give the prisoner compensation. Another grievance which the prisoner nourished against Mellor was connected with a dispute as to the value and removal of some fixtures. There were also two other sources of complaint. On the 3rd of Feb. a distress was put into the prisoner's premises, and the goods were taken away. There was little to seize, and the goods did not realise the amount of the rent; but the prisoner was not considered by Mellor an eligible tenant, and another distress was instituted. It was intimated, however, to the prisoner, that if he would leave the place, he might take anything that belonged to him. All these circumstances seemed to have excited a very angry feeling towards Mellor in Taylor's mind, and to this feeling the acts of violence which had been detailed were attributed by the prosecution. Having pointed out the legal distinctions between murder and manslaughter, Mr. Monk reminded the jury that, in minor offences, the law presumed that the wife acted under the coercion of her husband, and excused her in consequence; but that this did not prevail in cases of murder. As an authority, he might mention the case of Manning and his wife, who were side by side brought before a jury charged with murder, and who suffered together the penalty of the law. Dwelling upon the points which associated the female prisoner with the crime, the learned counsel said she was living with her husband, was seen in his society, both at their own house and at Mellor's office, and it would be for the jury to say whether the appearance which the children presented indicated rather the care and attention of a female than a male hand, though the writing was evidently in the hand of Taylor himself. In conclusion, the learned counsel said that if the jury should come to the conclusion that the prosecution failed against either or both of the prisoners, neither of his learned friends for the defence could urge them more strongly than he did to acquit the prisoners. They must, however, look into the question fearlessly and impartially by the evidence, and if they found both or either of the prisoners guilty, he

was satisfied that they would not fail, as independent and honest men, to discharge their duty. The learned gentleman then called witnesses.

William Galloway Mellor, examined by Mr. Fowler, Q.C., said he was a clerk to his late father, Evan Mellor, who carried on business in co-operation with his son, John Mellor, as estate agent. About a quarter to nine o'clock on Friday morning, the 16th of May, he (witness) went to the office and arrived there before any one else. Taylor and his wife called and asked if Mr. Mellor was in. He said no, but he would not be long before he came. Taylor said he hoped Mr. Mellor would not be long, as he had to go by the train. They then sat down in the ante-room, the male prisoner sitting with his back to the window, the wife sitting with her back to the wall. Heard his father come in and say, "Good morning, Mr. Taylor." At the same time heard him say, in a tone of alarm, "Oh, Mr. Taylor!" He saw Taylor holding his father as if was throttling him. Witness, getting off his seat, rushed towards the door leading to the staircase. The female prisoner, who was not far from him, presented a revolver pistol which she held in her hand towards witness's head. He banged the door, which had been partially open, and ran into the inner office. He drew up the window, and then heard a report of firearms from the direction of the staircase. On hearing the shot he ran back to the stairs. No one was on the first landing, but on the second he found his father. The male prisoner was on the upper landing with a revolver in his hand. The male prisoner then rushed up-stairs, and witness ran to the police-station, which is close by. When he returned, he found the female prisoner walking up and down the ground floor. She seemed to be coming out of the building. He went up to where he had left his father, and assisted with others to put him into a cab, in which he was carried to the Royal Infirmary. He did not know what the male prisoner had in his hand; but when he saw Taylor and his father struggling he noticed Taylor's hand moving as if he was striking. Mellor and Son were agents for the house in which the prisoners lived. About six months previously an explosion of the boiler had taken place, and one of the prisoner's children was killed. The prisoner made complaints of the explosion, and stated that the place required a thorough repair. The rent for

the place was due in January, but was not paid, and on the 3rd of February a distress was levied upon his property. A sale took place, but the whole amount of the rent was not realised. He continued to live in the place, and the rent due in March was also not paid. Another distress was levied upon the premises on the 30th of April. A day or two before the attack the prisoner called at the office and saw the deceased. He said he wanted the account of the person who had distrained, as he had not had it. An altercation took place, but no quarrel. He did not appear to be excited.

In cross-examination by Mr. Pope, the witness said that soon after the prisoner entered upon the premises he complained that his health was failing, and said he was desirous of leaving the place if he could find another tenant. He found another tenant, who was brought up to Mellor and Son's office, but the arrangement went off in consequence of some disagreement as to the fixtures. The male prisoner had complained of the state of the boiler before the explosion took place. The distraint was put in for the January quarter, about a week after the child who was killed by the explosion had been buried; and after that the place was shut up.

In cross-examination by Mr. Overend, Q.C., the witness said the prisoners had been in the office for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes before his father came in; the female prisoner did not speak to him (witness) at all. His father was seized immediately he came in, and the door was not closed.

In re-examination the witness said he was quite sure the female prisoner presented a revolver at him; and stated that the reason he threw up the window was, that he was under the impression that she was going to follow him, and he intended to adopt that means of escape.

Joseph Peacock Leatherbrow, wine merchant, at St. James's Chambers, said his office was below that of Mellor and Son. On the morning in question while in his office he heard a noise as of some one falling down-stairs. He ran up-stairs, and on the first landing saw Mr. Mellor lying on his back; he was bleeding slightly from the mouth. Witness called for his cellarman, who came up, and Mr. Mellor was raised to a sitting posture. While holding him in this position the male prisoner came down-stairs with a revolver in his hand. He pointed the revolver at Mr. Mellor's head while two or three feet

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from him, and fired. Did not see where the shot took effect. Witness said to the prisoner, "My God, what does this mean?" and the prisoner replied, "Oh! he has murdered my children." Witness then went down-stairs, and while there young Mellor (the last witness) passed him, going in the direction of the police station. Hooley, his cellarman, who had been wounded, fainted; and when returning with water for his man, Taylor was there. He said to Hooley, "Young man, I advise you to go to the infirmary," or words to that effect. The male prisoner had still a revolver in his hand; a policeman arrived, and the prisoner was removed. He was very calm and composed in his demeanour. Several times that week he had seen Taylor pass up-stairs in the direction of Mellor's office.

Cross-examined: What the man did he did quite openly, and made no attempt to escape. There was plenty of time to escape if he had been so disposed.

John Hooley, the cellarman referred to by the last witness, said he remembered being called by Mr. Leatherbrow, and on going up to the first landing he saw Mr. Mellor lying on his back bleeding. When they raised his head witness saw two men coming down-stairs, one with a revolver in his hand; this man (the prisoner) presented the pistol at Mr. Mellor's head and fired. The shot passed through witness's wrist, and afterwards wounded him in the right knee. When they had got down-stairs, the male prisoner came up and said very coolly, he had better go to the infirmary. (To Mr. Overend the witness stated that the female prisoner said nothing.)

Henry Francis Pankhurst, auctioneer, said he heard on the morning in question, something in Lower King-street, which induced him to go to St. James's Chambers. He saw Hooley at the bottom of the stairs wounded, and then went up-stairs, and on the first landing he found Mr. Mellor. He felt his pulse, and found there was very slight pulsation. There was a great deal of blood about his clothes. While young Mellor was coming down, the prisoner had a revolver in his hand, and when Mellor saw it he ran up-stairs again, screaming. Taylor then raised the revolver at young Mellor, when witness exclaimed, "Good God, what are you going to do?" Witness caught prisoner's eye, which quailed. Taylor lowered his hand, exclaiming, "He has ruined me and my family." The police subsequently arrived, and the prisoner was arrested.

Mr. William Heath, house-surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, said that when Mr. Mellor was brought to that institution he was quite dead. He had made a *post-mortem* examination of the body, and found eleven stabs in different parts of the body—one on the right side of the chest about two inches and a half in length, passing obliquely through the breast bone, penetrating the heart, passing through the diaphragm, and wounding the liver. Another was on the right side of the chest, about two inches in length, passing through the cartilage of the fifth and sixth ribs, and penetrating the heart. Either of these wounds was sufficient to cause death. The other wounds were in different parts of the body. The knife produced (a large, long-bladed knife, probably used for cutting bacon or cheese), was likely to have caused the wounds.

Sergeant Thomas Bramall, of the Manchester police, deposed to having gone to the office, when the prisoner was pointed out as the person who had shot Hooley. Another officer took the revolver from Taylor's hand, and he was removed to the police station by witness and another man. On their return they found and arrested the female prisoner. On going up-stairs he found in the ante-room the knife which had been shown to Mr. Heath. The knife had been placed behind a board in a corner of the room, and it was covered with blood. He found Mrs. Taylor in the office, and a sheath for a knife was taken out of her pocket by the officer Bateman.

Martha Woolley, the charwoman employed in cleaning the offices, proved that when she cleaned the place that morning no knife was in the position in which it was afterwards found by Bramall.

Police-sergeant Bateman, who accompanied Bramall to St. James's Chambers, proved that he took the revolver (produced) from the male prisoner. After the revolver had been taken from him the prisoner said his name was Taylor, and that he lived at No. 1, Britannia buildings, Strangeways. While the witness was searching him he said, "Thank God, my work is now finished." He found upon him some bullets, percussion caps, and a knife sheath (improvised of brown paper). He also found upon him keys which unlocked the various rooms of the house. On unlocking the bedroom door he found three children dead; they had been all washed, and a ribbon was tied round the waist and wrist of each, and at the head of each he found a naper (produced and read as given in Mr. Monk's address). Harptry

Cemetery is about two miles from Manchester. He went through the house and found all the walls of the bedrooms covered with soot. The doors had been cut, and the banisters and stairs had also been cut; one of the marble mantelpieces had been taken down and the children's heads were lying upon this article as a pillow. Witness returned to the police-station and told the prisoners they were charged with the murder of Mr. Mellor and of the three children. The female prisoner said she had left a basket belonging to her at Mr. Mellor's office, and asked witness to fetch it. He did so, and on examining it, found two sponges, some hairbrushes and combs, and a piece of sticking-plaster. The revolver taken from Taylor contained six barrels, five of which were loaded. A gunsmith endeavoured to draw the charges, but as he could not do so, the barrels had to be discharged.

Thomas G. Jones, general salesman, Deansgate, stated that on the 13th of May the male prisoner purchased at his shop for 21s. the revolver found upon him on the 16th by Bateman; he also supplied him with a bullet-mould similar to that found upon the prisoner. The prisoner said he had no money to pay for the articles, but he would redeem a Geneva watch which he had in pledge and give it to witness. Taylor did so. He did not say what he was going to do with the pistol.

William Evans, employed in the office of a wine merchant in Exeter, proved that the prisoner had been in the service of the same gentleman as commercial traveller, and that the documents found upon the children in the bedroom were in Taylor's handwriting. Several witnesses were examined for the purpose of accounting for the movements of the prisoner for a day or two before the attack. The bailiff who made the second distraint said there was no bed in the house when he went there, everything except one chair was removed from the place.

Mr. Bury, attorney for Mr. Gannett, the owner of the house in which the prisoners lived, proved that the prisoner had been told that the rent which was due would be forgiven if he would give up the key of the premises.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Pope said he felt almost overborne with the responsibility that rested upon him, and he believed that the jury also felt deeply their

responsibility. He asked them to supply any lack on the part of the advocate by a merciful consideration of the facts. In such an inquiry the prisoner's advocate experienced additional difficulty when the prisoner, from poverty or from any other cause, was unable to elaborate and prepare a defence. When an investigation must necessarily be made into the condition of mind of a criminal at the time he committed a certain act, it was desirable, perhaps necessary, that there should be some witnesses who could give some information on such a subject. But, unfortunately, the preparation of a defence always being at the prisoner's expense, he was unable to prepare it if without means or assistance. The simple question which he proposed to submit to the jury was, whether the prisoner, at the time he committed the act with which he was charged, was conscious of the quality and nature of the act? Was the prisoner, at the time he murdered Mr. Mellor, labouring under such a defect of reason as not to know the nature or quality of his act; and if he did know its nature, did he know that he was doing wrong? He knew that there was a natural feeling that, except upon very strong grounds, a defence of insanity ought not to prevail; that there was a repugnance on the part of juries to listen to such a defence. He knew it might be said that it was dangerous to society to allow such a plea to prevail in criminal cases. But he also felt, with an intensity which filled him with awe, the awful responsibility of taking the life of a fellow-creature if such a question remained in doubt. He was not sure that there was not something of moral or social cowardice in the repugnance which one felt to look in the face the question of insanity in criminal cases. It was a natural feeling that if an outrage was committed a victim must be found. Only a few decades of years ago people were put to death for witchcraft. With our greater knowledge we had learned to smile at the follies of our forefathers; and yet we were possessed with a sort of terror at considering the subtle and mysterious facts which lay in an inquiry into the mental state of a man charged with crime. He asked them if they saw in this case circumstances which might lead them to the view he was urging to deal with it with resolute courage, and without regard to popular clamour or outcry. It was not necessary to a man being insane, and, therefore, irresponsible for his acts, that he should be a raving maniac. Insanity resulting in crime might arise with com-

paratively little warning, and without any symptoms being noticed by persons with whom the individual had been in contact. Insanity was no sudden stroke. A process went on which led to fatal results, as a storm might arise without being observed in its approach by those engaged in their labour, in the fields. He did not put this to the jury as his own suggestion, but as a matter of common information. He quoted some remarks by Dr. Williams, a high authority in monomania, in corroboration of the view he had taken of insanity being entirely unobserved until an act was committed, which brought it unmistakably before us. He would refrain from referring to other authorities, although they teemed with cases illustrative of his position. The jury would probably be asking what evidence was there of insanity in this case. In reply, he asked them carefully to consider the character and circumstances of the murder itself. Horrible as it was, fierce and violent as it was, it was of such a nature as could hardly be accounted for by any of the ordinary mental conditions in which men were placed. They were not dealing with a man who up to this time had given any indication of a ruffianly or brutal disposition; but with a father of the deepest affection who succeeded in inspiring the woman standing beside him with a devotion almost unparalleled. They were not dealing with a bloodthirsty man. Assuming that the prisoner's act was one of insanity, what could they expect to be its characteristics? Why, that it would be singular and violent. That was precisely the case in this instance. It was just such an act as a man not murderous naturally would commit if suddenly seized with murderous impulses. There was pathos of the deepest kind in one part of the case, indifference amounting to positive calmness in another part. There was no concealment, but absolute publicity,—no attempt at escape, no indication that the man was conscious of the nature of the act he had committed. He was possessed with one absorbing conviction, with one impelling delusion. From first to last he was possessed by the insane idea which urged him forward, and resulted in the crime with which he was charged. What had been the course of events in the case? The prisoner entered the house in Britannia-buildings, in October, 1861. Slight grievances occurred at first, matters which to him (Mr. Pope) or the jury, would seem susceptible of remedy, but which appeared to the prisoner of an extraordinary character. To him



they assumed a magnitude and reality which they would hardly present to a sane intellect. First was the complaint that his health was giving way, that he desired to obtain another tenant. Then came the small, and to others the apparently unimportant, grievance of the bargain with the proposed new tenant being broken off by Mr. Mellor's interference. The explosion and death of his child came next, and the wild distress of the man at his loss. From that hour the delusion possessed him that Mr. Mellor was personally responsible for the death of that child. Was that the conviction of a sane man? Although Mr. Heath was naturally unwilling to commit himself unduly to any opinion, yet he had said that the man's manner was so wild as to attract his attention. That gentleman saw distressed friends of injured persons by hundreds, and therefore it would not be an ordinary wildness that would attract his attention. Following upon the explosion was the prisoner's notion that he ought to have some compensation for the death of his child. Within a week of the funeral the first distraint was put into his house. So the matter progressed. The prisoner constantly called at Mr. Mellor's in order to obtain some compensation—the same delusion always possessing him. In his house there was nothing but poverty and desolation. A second distress was put in, and the place was stripped of everything but a single chair—even the last poor relics which might have reminded the sorrowing father of his buried child were taken to pay the rent. The next act was one that for horror and grotesqueness was unexampled in the history of crime. Was it the act of a sane man, or of a man labouring under an absorbing delusion, whose tottering reason had been precipitated into the gulf of despair? God forbid that he should refer to these matters as affording adequate motives for the crime. He only adverted to them as showing that delusion had driven the man's reason from its seat, and rendered him no longer competent to know the nature of the act which he committed. He forebore to lift higher the curtain which Bateman raised. [At this moment the prisoner Taylor fell back heavily in the dock. He had fainted, and it was several minutes before he was restored to consciousness. He was then accommodated with a chair.] He (Mr. Pope), would pursue that subject no further. All the facts were before the jury. They had heard of the unnecessary violence with which the murder was committed

of the number of the wounds, of the extermination rather than a single murder which seemed to be the prisoner's object when he presented the pistol at the head of young Mr. Mellor. They found him in a perfectly calm condition anxious about the man whom he had wounded by mistake. He made no attempt to escape, but in every way acted as a man who was not conscious of having done anything contrary to the law of God or man. Would not the jury think from all these facts that the prisoner was possessed of a delusion? There was no indication by the prisoner that he was gratifying the paltry revenge spoken of by the prosecution because of the restraint upon his goods; but his remark was—"Mellor has murdered my child." There was the delusion, not the motive, but that which had overthrown his reason and made him no longer conscious of what he was doing. When taken into custody, the prisoner said, "Thank God, my work is done," showing that he was still possessed of the insane idea that the act he had committed was not a crime. Even the plea he had made that morning was another confirmation of his (Mr. Pope's) argument—"Not a shadow of guilt." Was he then still possessed of the delusion that although he had taken a man's life, he had not offended against the laws of his country? Then, indeed, was the delusion deep. Once more to refer to the death of the children, as a part of the whole transaction, was that the act of a sane man? Was it revenge that took the life of those children? He asked the jury to read again that half poetical effusion found on the children's breasts. It was terrible in its pathos, and sad indeed, as indicating the wreck of the mind of a man who could at such a moment place such a paper on the breasts of the three children. He was not sure that in asking for a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity he was asking for a merciful verdict. If such should be the verdict, the prisoner must be confined in an asylum for the rest of his days. He did not ask that he might be sent forth again into society; he pleaded only for the prisoner's life; and he entreated the jury to pause very long before, by forfeiting that life, instead of administering to a high and holy justice, they yielded to a popular cry which desired a victim for a blind and unreasoning justice.

Mr. Overend addressed the jury on behalf of the female prisoner. He said he had looked through the evidence in vain for any expression

of anger on her part which might indicate that she had any motive for the murder of Mr. Mellor. It was clear, therefore, that whatever animosity might have been entertained by her husband, she entertained none. He would not contend that the woman acted under the coercion of her husband; but he would ask, did she go to Mr. Mellor's office for the purpose of murdering him, and was she an abettor in the murder? When she went to the office, she seated herself on the chair, which stood in its usual place; and, therefore, the suggestion of the prosecution, that she took her seat there for the purpose of watching the inner office, was pressing the case too far. Who ever heard of a woman going to take part in a deliberate murder and carrying with her a basket containing two combs, two brushes, and a sponge? The young Mellor was seated in the office, opposite to her, for twelve minutes; and he saw nothing in her manner to show that she was agitated or flurried. Could they believe that if she had gone there for a deadly purpose, or knew that her husband had deadly weapons upon him, she would not have shown agitation? When the struggle occurred between Taylor and Mr. Mellor, the young man must have been in a state of considerable alarm, as he ran out to the landing. He (Mr. Mellor, jun.) said he was not much alarmed; but Mr. Pankhurst said he was in the utmost possible alarm, and running in one direction and another. It was just what might be expected when a young man saw his father attacked in a murderous manner. That young man said when he ran out the woman stood before him, and presented a revolver at his head. That was the only evidence against her. The theory of the prosecution was, that she was there to prevent anyone from taking part with Mr. Mellor. If that was so, was it not singular that she did not close the door and hold it, or that she did not use the weapon which, it was said, she held? He submitted, however, that no reliance could be placed upon that part of the evidence. She must have had her arms stretched out in a state of bewilderment, and the young man in his alarm might have thought he saw a revolver, whereas the probability was that he was quite mistaken. It was not said that she spoke a word. If Mr. Mellor, jun., had thought at the time that the woman had taken part in the murder he would have charged her with the offence when he went to the police-office; but he did not do so. When he returned to the office she was walking about, and others saw her

there, but no one thought of charging her with having had any part in the transaction. It was only afterwards that Mr. W. G. Mellor thought he had seen her hand raised towards him. This surely was not such evidence as would lead the jury to consign her to an ignominious death. He did not charge the young man with committing perjury ; but he contended that he was mistaken when he thought he saw the woman point a revolver at him. If the man was insane, as was suggested, to whom was he likely to mention his murderous project ? Not to his wife, certainly, for she would have prevented him from executing it. When he purchased the revolver he was alone. It was not proved that she ever saw it, excepting only the young man's evidence. She was so dressed as not to have the facility of concealing such a weapon. He implored the Jury to pause before they adopted the young man's version of the story and consigned his client to infamy and death, Hooley said he saw her coming down the stairs when he was supporting Mr. Mellor's head. But he was contradicted in that particular by three witnesses who had previously seen her walking about at the bottom of the stairs. Hooley must have been mistaken, and having received a wound he was in just such a state of agitation as young Mr. Mellor must have been in. What would be the conduct of an innocent woman under the circumstances ? When she saw the conflict she would put up her arms in a state of excitement. It might be said that she should have screamed. But she was a wife still ; and, besides, she might not have known to what extent the struggle was proceeding. She rushed down-stairs, and never went up again ; but when Hooley came down she leaned over him and pitied him. It was quite clear from her conversation with the policeman that she did not know how Mr. Mellor came to his death, for she then thought that he had been shot. She said she had committed the murder, it was true ; but that was only in desperation, and hoping to do something which might save her husband from the scaffold. Innocent as she was, she was willing to sacrifice her life to save his. That her statement was true, no one pretended to say. It was a lie told for the purpose of rescuing her husband. With respect to the children, it had not been proved that they had been murdered. There was no witness, however, who spoke to her having been seen going into the house within any reasonable period of the time of their supposed deaths. There was

some writing on the papers found on the children, which was not the male prisoner's; but it was not pretended that it was the woman's writing. There was nothing whatever, therefore, to connect her in any way with the children's deaths. After considering all these facts, it would be for the Jury to say if she went to Mr. Mellor's office with the deliberate intention of taking part in a murder. If they discarded the young man's evidence, there was nothing else to rely on. He cautioned them not to rely on the evidence, seeing how liable it was to lead them into error, and to cause a grievous and mortal injury to the woman on trial for her life. He besought them to come to such a conclusion as would not only give them satisfaction now, but would also, on a retrospection, raise no qualms and misgivings that their verdict might not have been consistent with justice, with reason, and with mercy.

The learned Judge, in summing up the evidence, said that the prisoners were charged with the crime of wilful murder, and the time had come for the Jury to forget a great deal which had been said in the way of appeals to their passions, and very calmly, but still with firmness, to review the facts which had been proved in evidence. They had no reason to complain of the addresses which they had heard from the bar—addresses characterised by great ability, and delivered with much force and much feeling. It was the office of the bar to make appeals to their hearts. They were the advocates of the prisoners, and it was their province to say anything, whether it was a matter of reason or a matter of sentiment. But he and the Jury had a very serious duty to discharge, and they would discharge it best by thinking of the deed and of the evidence in a common-sense point of view. They would try, if they could, to look at matters clearly, to exclude all movements of sympathy, although, if they must have sympathy in the question, they might very properly turn their thoughts to the loss of the life of the man whose death they were inquiring into; they might turn their sympathy quite as wisely with those who had been left orphans by this act. In a civilised community like this, investigating as they were an act of unparalleled atrocity, they should not be doing their duty to the public, if, in a case of this kind, they suffered themselves to estimate the degree of crime which attached to it other than by the light of common sense, and which was far removed from the regions in which they had been

invited to travel. The principal question was the murder of Evan Mellor, on the 26th May. The fact of the murder had been proved beyond all doubt. The prisoners were man and wife, and they must consider their guilt not together but separately. With regard to the male prisoner, his was the act that killed Evan Mellor. He stabbed him ten or twelve times with a knife, and afterwards fired a pistol at him. The defence put forward was that of insanity. They were invited to say that Taylor was insane. To be sure he never showed himself to be insane. No single act had been proved in evidence which was otherwise than the act of a sane man, except the very act for which he was there on his trial. No word had ever passed his mouth that was not the word of a sane man. There was no want of health spoken to by any medical man; there was no proof that, in the ordinary ways of life, he conducted himself in any different way to what others did. Therefore, the case of insanity, as regarded Taylor, was a case in which a man, perfectly sane on all other occasions, and apparently sane on this particular occasion, with a calm demeanour, with a settled purpose, without any extravagant excitement or any peculiar circumstances surrounding the act, took a knife and stabbed another twelve times, causing his death. The learned counsel eloquently alluded to a gloom coming over the mind. How far was such a defence to go, and when were they to stop? If they were to give immunity to a crime of this description for the sole reason that it was very atrocious, who was not mad who committed a cold-blooded murder? Where were they to stop? The suggestion was almost madness run mad. In many cases a violent deed was done; there was a total absence of motive; there was great excitement at the time; there were proofs of previous acts such as did not belong to a perfectly sane man. Oftentimes there was proof of peculiar demeanour, either immediately before the act, or at periods antecedent. In those cases it was necessary to inquire whether they were quite satisfied that the prisoner really was in a perfectly sound state of mind, and knew right from wrong at the time. In this case, however, it was a matter of plain common sense, that the Jury could judge as well as he could. There was no trace of anything of the kind, nothing on which they could found the opinion that the prisoner was not as sane as any gentleman of the Jury, except that he committed an act very

atrocious and repugnant. That he nourished a feeling of vengeance was clear. The papers found on the children imputed the death of one of them to Mr. Mellor. There could be no doubt that the prisoner was acting under a feeling of strong resentment. Thus they had a perfectly sane man, acting under a sane impulse,—for it was an impulse to which sane men were subject. The law with respect to the other prisoner was just what they would imagine it to be. If she was by her husband's side, not cognizant of his intention, or if cognizant not in any way intending to be party to the act, she would not be guilty of the murder. If, on the other hand, she was there knowing his intention, intending to take part, and to aid and assist him, then, although her hand struck no blow, and her finger pulled no trigger, she would be equally responsible. The law did, in minor offences, extend an immunity to the wife, under the idea that she might be under her husband's control. But in crimes of serious importance the law provided no immunity. If the jury were satisfied that she was present intentionally taking a part with her husband, if she was there with the common purpose and object of effecting Evan Mellor's death, she was equally responsible with him. There was an overwhelming amount of evidence as to the man having killed Evan Mellor. The evidence against her was by no means so full. It rested chiefly on the one act sworn to by the son, of her raising the pistol. If, after he had read and commented on the evidence, they should think she was taking part in the murder, they must do their duty honestly and fearlessly. If, on the other hand, allowing for the mistake which a witness might make in a time of great excitement, they had a reasonable doubt as to her taking part in the act, they would give her the benefit of that doubt. He would now read the evidence ; after which, his lordship said the whole of the evidence contained the facts relative to the male prisoner. With respect to the woman, if she presented the revolver at young Mr. Mellor, it would be hard to say that she was not taking a very active part in the murder. Whether she was up or down stairs afterwards, no one spoke to any subsequent act on her part. The learned counsel had asked what motive could she have ? She might have as much motive as her husband. It was difficult to prove her innocence by such an argument. If her husband had been badly treated by Mellor, she had suffered through him. The only other

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matter was the papers. If the jury thought she was a party to the writing of them that would be strong evidence of her having part in the transaction. It was a mere guess that she had anything to do with the writing of the papers, as it was not proved that the writing on the back of them was hers. He had now mentioned all the circumstances that concerned her ; and if, on considering all, the jury should not be satisfied that she took part in the act, they must give her the benefit of the doubt. She might have followed her husband for many reasons, without knowing that he was going to commit a murder. Her standing by him was very different to her taking a distinct part in the murder. It remained for the jury, with calmness and perfect justice, to do their duty, and say whether the prisoners were guilty.

The jury found the female prisoner not guilty, but the male prisoner was found guilty of murder. He did not appear in the least discomposed.

The learned Judge then assumed the black cap, and passed sentence of death in the following terms :—"Prisoner at the bar, the jury have found you guilty of this most barbarous murder. Acting under a sense of supposed injury, you have wreaked your vengeance upon a man who was only the innocent instrument, and not in any way the cause of your trouble. You must have been aware when you took that man's life that you did so at the forfeit of your own. I have no desire to enlarge upon the enormity and the wickedness of such an act. You stand there an example to those who see you of the vehemence of bad passions, nurtured and fostered till they have impelled you to this most bloody deed. May your sentence be a warning to others! Let me entreat you to apply your remaining hours to make your peace with Heaven, for assuredly you have much to do." The learned Judge then completed the sentence in the usual form, and the prisoner was removed.

THE END.



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